

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 135360
ORIGIN AID-59

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DRAFTED BY PDC/OFDA:CRHOLMES/
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT: BURMESE PERSONS IN BANGLADESH

1. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECOMMENDATION FROM MISSION AS TO THE NATURE OF US ASSISTANCE TO MUSLEMS FLEEING INTO BANGLADESH FROM BURMA. FOR EXAMPLE, DO YOU FEEL WE SHOULD CONTRIBUTE BOTH TO UNHCR AND LEAGUE OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS APPEALS AND TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD WE RESPOND. IN LIGHT OF US FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS, DO YOU THINK THAT WE SHOULD CONTRIBUTE THE STANDARD TWENTY FIVE PERCENT TO THE UNHCR APPEAL OR SHOULD WE CONTRIBUTE LESS THAN TWENTY FIVE PERCENT.

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2. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT ON URGENCY OF SITUATION; IS A CASH CONTRIBUTION NEEDED IMMEDIATELY OR SHOULD WE HOLD BACK UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF NEEDS AND ABILITY OF AFFECTED PEOPLES TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES AND ABILITY OF BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT, UNHCR AND RED CROSS TO ADMINISTER ASSISTANCE. WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT WE DO NOT FIND OURSELVES RESPONDING TO

APPEALS FROM THE RED CROSS AND UNHCR WHICH ARE
DUPLICATORY OR WHICH COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF US ASSISTANCE IS OF COURSE ANOTHER
CONSIDERATION.

3. ANOTHER CONCERN IS THE DURATION OF US ASSISTANCE, I.E.
SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM ASSISTANCE. OUR THINKING HERE IS
THAT US ASSISTANCE AT THIS STAGE BE AIMED AT MEETING
IMMEDIATE HUMAN NEEDS.

4. AS WE ARE EXPECTING A REPORT ON YOUR MEETING WITH
GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WE HOPE THAT OUR QUESTIONS
WILL ASSIST YOU IN YOUR ANALYSES OF THE OUTCOME OF THE
MEETING. DECONTROL FOLLOWING MAY 26, 1979. VANCE

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